

MAYOR AND COUNCIL STRATEGIC FOCUS AREA SUBCOMMITTEE
RIO NUEVO/DOWNTOWN, ARTS, CULTURE AND HISTORY
ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION REPORT AND SUMMARY
January 17, 2006

1. ROLL CALL: 4:54 p.m.

COUNCIL MEMBERS PRESENT: Subcommittee Chair, Council Member Nina Trasoff, Ward 6
Council Member Jose Ibarra, Ward 1

COUNCIL MEMBER ABSENT: Vice Mayor Steve Leal, Ward 5

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Greg Shelko, Rio Nuevo Director
Mary Okoye, Director of Intergovernmental Relations
Marty McCune, Historic Preservation Officer
Bill O'Malley, Rio Nuevo Construction Manager

AGENDA ITEM/MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACTION	STAFF ACTION
<p>1. TIF Extension – 2006 Legislative Agenda</p> <p>Mary Okoye updated the subcommittee on the proposed TIF extension and advised that action was needed from the subcommittee in order to proceed with lobbying efforts.</p> <p>Council Member Ibarra MOVED/SECONDED by Council Member Trasoff for staff to proceed with lobbying for the TIF extension.</p> <p>Motion PASSED by a vote of 2 to 0.</p>	
<p>2. Downtown Project Updates</p> <p>Due to the number of people in the audience present for the discussion on the Tucson Origins project, this item was not discussed.</p>	
<p>3. Status of Tucson Origins Heritage Park Planning and Development</p> <p>Greg Shelko, Marty McCune and Bill O'Malley briefed the subcommittee on the project which includes construction of the Convento, Chapel, Mission Gardens and other park elements located west of the Santa Cruz River. On January 11, 2006, the Rio Nuevo Multipurpose Facilities Board directed staff to:</p> <p>1) issue a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) for an interdisciplinary design team to provide design and planning services;</p>	

AGENDA ITEM /MAYOR AND COUNCIL ACTION

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<p>2) issue a RFQ for a Construction Manager at Risk to provide pre-construction and construction services; and</p> <p>3) engage ConsultEcon to complete an assessment of project feasibility and assist with recommending operating strategies for this element of Tucson Origins.</p> <p>Council Member Ibarra requested that two people from the Menlo Park neighborhood sit on the selection committee.</p>	
<p>6. Publicly-Owned Land Redevelopment Opportunities (Upcoming RFPs)</p> <p>Greg Shelko briefed the subcommittee on releasing publicly owned land for redevelopment. Rio Nuevo has received several inquiries regarding the availability of City-owned land for redevelopment. This includes additional acreage located on the westside. Staff has begun assembling environmental, flood and other essential site data. Input from the Menlo Park neighborhood is instrumental to the success of the project.</p> <p>Other publicly owned land under evaluation includes the residential site south of the TCC; the site reserved for Nimbus Brewery in the event that project is deemed not feasible; a 22nd/I-10 corridor; and land in the vicinity of the Warehouse Arts District.</p> <p>Council Member Ibarra requested staff to work with and get a recommendation from the Menlo Park and Barrio Sin Nombre neighborhoods before it returns to Mayor and Council for consideration.</p>	
<p>4. Downtown Housing Market Forecast</p> <p>Greg Shelko briefed the subcommittee on the results of the downtown housing study conducted by Economics Research Associates.</p> <p>Council Member Ibarra asked what's the next step? Greg Shelko advised that some recommendations would be presented to Mayor and Council within the next 30 days.</p> <p>5. Downtown City Team Activity</p> <p>Greg Shelko briefed the subcommittee on the team's work to date. Approximately 20 people from different departments are focusing on downtown. Staff will be meeting with the City Attorney's Office about implementing a facade program. Staff is working with the Tucson Police and Community Services to address the public's concern about the Ronstadt</p>	

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<p>Transit Center, crime and transient issues. A strategic effort to improve property conditions along gateways to downtown, and in particular Congress Street, is being formulated.</p>	
<p>7. Future Meetings</p> <p>Council Member Trasoff advised that she would be working with her colleagues to set a calendar for future meetings and would solicit their input on setting future agendas.</p>	
<p>8. Call to the Audience</p> <p>Marty Cortez asked that strict covenants be placed on future west side development.</p> <p>Lillian Lopez Grant advised that the Menlo Park had already submitted their position papers on the west side development, but for the sake of the Chair (new Council Member) additional copies would be distributed. She also expressed her continuing frustration with the lack of progress on the west side.</p> <p>Michael Toney spoke about his concerns with the architect for the University of Arizona Science Center, the perceived violations of the work being done prior to the IGA being signed, and his belief that Tucson could be the optics capital of world.</p>	
<p>7. Adjournment</p> <p>The meeting was adjourned at 5:50 p.m.</p>	